

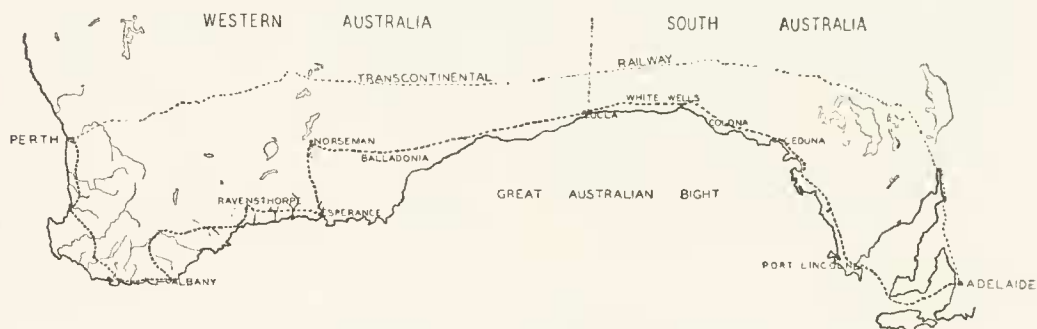
THE RUSSELL GRIMWADE EXPEDITION TO SOUTH AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1947

INTRODUCTION

By Sir Russell Grimwade

In the winter of 1947 I was privileged to organize and lead a party of scientists by road from Port Lincoln to Perth. The party included a forester, naturalist, entomologist, botanist, ethnologist, bird observers and plant collectors.

The journey took sixteen days, and was made in a large touring bus that accommodated the party of nine and a crew of four, with a trailer that carried reserve supplies of fuel, water, tyres and necessary camping gear. Travel was done by day only, the nights being spent in camp, or in hotels if they were available.



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ROUTE SHOWN -----

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The route from east to west coincided very closely with that travelled by Edward John Eyre on his historic journey in the years 1840-41, and every member of the party was conscious of and humbled by the comfort and safety of the trip, in contrast with the arduous and dangers experienced by the great explorer.

Large collections, especially in the botanical and entomological fields, were made, and these specimens are now deposited in the National Herbarium, Melbourne, and the National Museum of Victoria respectively.

Since the completion of the journey, specialists have worked upon these specimens, comparing them with the specimens already held by these two great institutions.

The results of this expedition were many — they included a manifestation of the comparative ease and comfort with which such trips can be made nowadays with motor transport, and illustrate the rapidity with which a full knowledge of our country may be acquired by its aid with improved roads and tracks.

Of the nine hundred botanical specimens and the three hundred natural history specimens brought to the permanent collections of the National Herbarium and the National Museum, the great majority was well known, having been previously collected and recorded. A few were old friends found in new places, and a few were entirely new to science. It is with these collections that the remainder of this paper deals.

The pleasant and lasting memories of such an expedition have their real foundation in the belief that a small contribution was made on this occasion to the general knowledge of the Australian environment, and my thanks and congratulations go to those enthusiastic companions who so freely shared their knowledge with those of the party who were less informed than they, and for their companionship on an occasion that was both useful and pleasurable.